*COMMON SENSE::* Thomas Paine declared it was time for the colonists to declare themselves independent so they could create a better society for themselves.

The Americans chose sides:-----

Loyalists: the people that were opposed to independence and were loyal to the king

Patriots: supported independence

*OLIVE BRANCH PETITION:* The second continental congress sent a letter to King George III to return to “the former harmony.” The king rejected this and declared it a rebellion of the colonists.

*BOSTON TEA PARTY:* The colonists threw teas into the Boston Harbor to protest British East India Company selling tea to the colonists without paying taxes. Sons of Liberty revolted because it would hurt the colonial tea merchants who still had to pay taxes.

*BOSTON MASSACRE:* British soldiers fought with colonists outside the Boston Custom House; the British soldiers shot into the crowd of colonists killing 5 colonists. The Sons of Liberty labeled this event a “massacre” to show that Britain will attack a group of defenseless colonists.

*TOWNSHEND ACTS:*  The Townshend Acts put taxes on materials such as lead, paint, tea, paper & glass that were imported to the colonies. This lead to the rebel by colonists on British goods.

*STAMP ACT:* Boston colonial leaders formed the Sons of Liberty; this group organized the protests against stamp collectors and British colonial officials. The colonist adopted resolutions that said they could only be taxed by colonial representatives. Merchants agreed not to tax imported goods from Britain because the Stamp Act congress issued a declaration saying parliament could not tax the colonist because they were not represented. Stamp Act was then repealed in 1766 by parliament.